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C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 000737

SIPDIS

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TAGS: PREL PGOV JA MR
SUBJECT: JAPANESE REPRESENTATION IN MAURITANIA

REF: A. NOUAKCHOTT 655
 1B. STATE 122627
 1C. TOKYO 3203

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Dennis Hankins for reasons 1.4 (b and d)

(C) Charge met December 15 with Japanese diplomat Miyamoto Musayuk who is heading the Japanese "Preparatory Office" established in Nouakchott in the beginning of December. Musayuk confirmed that after the U.S. demarche in Tokyo (REF B), Tokyo had postponed plans to formally open an embassy. The "Preparatory Office" remains technically a branch of the Japanese embassy in Senegal with the three diplomats assigned to the office spending one week out of four in Dakar and travel to Mauritania on Official instead of Diplomatic passports.. Musayuk said they minimize political contacts with both the regime and the Abdallahi camp. The offices are located in the same building as the Peace Corps. The Japanese are not yet looking for permanent staff housing although they are hiring some local staff.

HANKINS